

but they were no good for walnut—they answered him very well for his bridges, his rough work about his farm. "You must wait," he said, "for twenty-five years more before you get large walnut trees that will give you the good boards you formerly got from the forest; for forty years it is all young wood; but when it gets to 60 or 65 years old then you get your great timber.

Now there is a sort of wood we can get in half that time—that is our own cherry, which will give us in thirty years a very good return.

There is a larch which I found largely planted in Scotland and England yields an excellent return; and for our shade trees, for our wind-breaks, I may mention that I have gone through all this country, and I find nothing better than the Norway spruce; but I would advise people to plant that around their orchards—not to attempt to cut it around too closely with their shears to make a hedge of it, because I have noticed it frequently turn brown and partially die. The spruce is really a tree, not a hedge plant; and when it grows big enough to want to be a tree it does not want to be a hedge any more. I should suggest that that distinction be always observed.

I may mention, before I close, some things that have been suggested at farmers' institutes should be done. In the first place, as we all know, we have immense pine forests. The great difficulty with these was that when the lumberman went in it was rather his interest to cut down this forest, because if he cut down the mature trees alone, he would leave a quantity of rubbish, which would catch fire and burn down the young trees which he would like to preserve. Now, those fires were preventible, and were caused largely by people with pipes, by camp fires, by careless sportsmen and by different methods sometimes but very seldom by lightning. Now, we have in the Province of Ontario—and I believe of all the States and Provinces of North America we are the only one that has done anything of the sort—we have in Ontario within the last two or three years got out a company of "fire rangers" throughout the summer months, when there is danger of fire. These men are paid half by the Province and half by the lumbermen; and wherever they see a smoke they travel towards it, put it out. If they find a camp that has left its fire, they put it out, follow up, and sometimes talk to the people; sometimes, where they are obliged to, prosecute them. They leave word in all the villages, "If you set fire carelessly you will be prosecuted." They speak to farmers and say, "When you are going to burn fallow we want you to take some precautions; we want you to warn your neighbors; we want you to tell us"—or something of that sort. So, gentlemen, we are taking much more care of fires than we did two or three years ago. It costs the Government some thousands of dollars yearly, and the lumbermen as much; but I see by this year's report that it is considered that last year alone they saved an immense amount of money, and I have no doubt they did; for in my wanderings through the forest I have seen small fires, which had been left by campers three weeks before, burning yet, and quite ready, when the wind sprang up, to involve the forest in ruin. Ontario has taken a great step in advance in this matter. (Applause.)

It has also been advised by some of the farmers that large nurseries be established, as in Europe—in Prussia especially—where they give away seeds and young trees of certain quality, and thereby encourage farmers to plant them. Of course it is always understood that reasonable bonds would have to be entered into, to take care of these trees, and plant them properly.

The third course that has been suggested is that the Government, in giving out wild lands, should always require that the hill slopes must be retained in forests. I was talking to Mr. George Allan, of the Canada Company, and he says that now in their deeds they always compel the settlers to retain ten acres in every hundred perpetually in forest; and I should like to observe that if that be done, a clause should necessarily be added that this be fenced, so that cattle be kept out; for if cattle be allowed to go into the forest they will certainly in time destroy it. They will bite down the young trees, and after that is done it is only a question of a short time when they old ones will cease to grow.

Other methods have been suggested, to the effect that Government should give away seeds and trees. That is not so effective here as on the borders of sea coast, where

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